

## A new genus of Scolebythidae (Hymenoptera) from South Africa and Australia

by

CAROL G. NAGY

Marine Research Institute, Agigea—Constantza, Romania

Introduced by D. P. Annecke

A new genus and species, *Ycaploca evansi*, is described for a larval parasite of the wood-boring cerambycid, *Hylotrupes bajulus*.

The family Scolebythidae was proposed by Evans (1963) to include two genera, *Clystospenella* Kieffer from Brazil and *Scolebythus* Evans from Madagascar, both based only on the female sex. This paper presents the description of a third new genus and new species, with both sexes reared, together with records of known distribution and the first discovery of the host. The following key will aid in separating the genera:

1. Front without median prominence between antennal sockets; scutellum separated to the mesoscutum by a pair of widely segregated pits ..... 2
- Front with strong median prominence between antennal sockets; scutellum separated to the mesoscutum by a transverse furrow (continental South Africa and Australia) .. **Ycaploca**
- 2 Occipital carina well developed; malar space short, less than half as long as width of mandibles at their base; apex of marginal cell on the wing margin; abdomen robust, the fifth sternite simple (Madagascar) ..... **Scolebythus**
- Occipital carina absent; malar space well over half as long as width of mandibles at their base; apex of marginal cell curving away from wing margin; abdomen slender, the fifth sternite slightly swollen posteriorly, the swelling terminating behind in a polished, triangular area which is flanked by two groups of dense, appressed setae (Brazil) .. **Clystospenella**

### YCAPLOCA gen. nov.

Type-species *Ycaploca evansi* spec. nov., by monotypy and by present designation.

*Generic characters.* Mandibles quadridentate, the occipital carina ventrally developed. Clypeal lobe produced medially as a polished lamella, slightly emarginated anteriorly. Front prolonged between antennal sockets as a high prominence, malar space practically nonexistent. Front with faintly indicated median sulcus in its anterior half; the interantennal prominence carinulated on the sides; face flat on each side to the sockets. Mesoscutum separated from the scutellum by a straight transverse furrow, propodeal disc on each side with an enclosed spiracle near the base. Hind coxae produced upward in an acute triangular projection; first sector of radius weakly longer than the second, the tip of marginal cell turned away from the wing margin. Fifth sternite simple, genitalia as shown in fig. 3.

### *Ycaploca evansi* spec. nov., figs 1-3

Holotype ♀ labelled: "Kirstenbosch, Cape, S. Afr., October 1958, D. P. ANNECKE, suction trap."

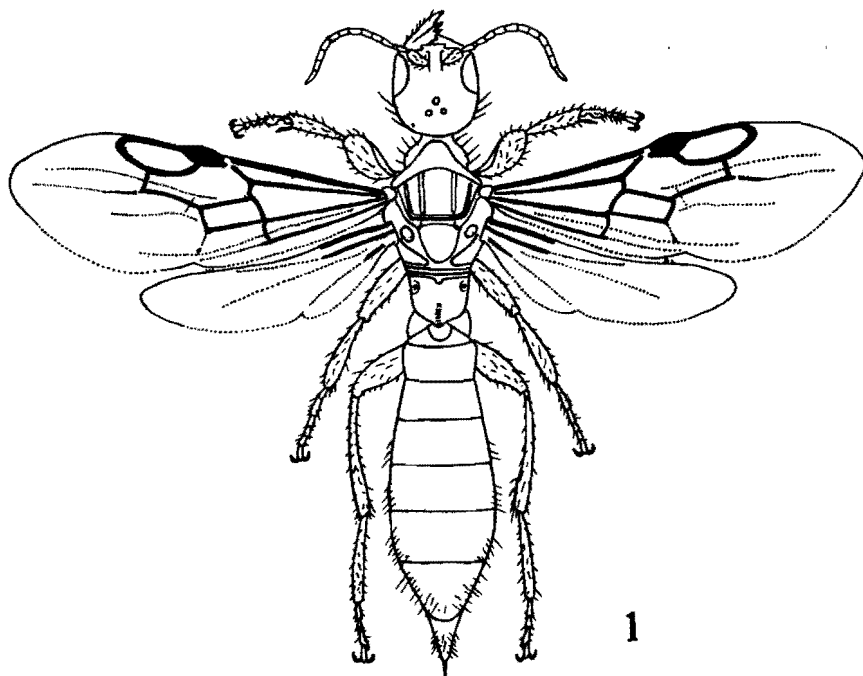
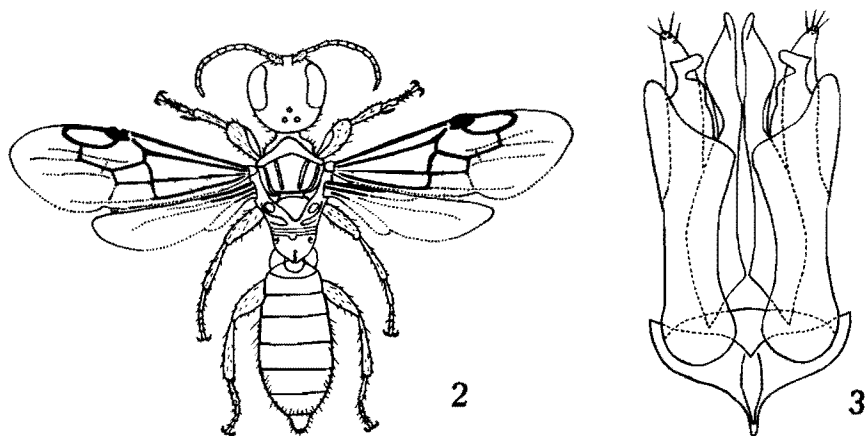


Fig. 1. *Ycaploca evansi* gen. et spec. nov., ♀-holotype.

*Description.* Length about 6,0 mm; fore wing 3,0 mm. Head and thorax dark brown to black; abdomen, femora and veins castaneous; tibiae, tarsi and antennae yellow; legs and body clothed with sparse golden pubescence. Head slightly longer than broad (4,3: 3,7); front and vertex polished and shining, covered with rather scattered punctures, the interpunctal spaces as long as width of ocellar triangle except behind ocelli and between them with 8–10 more closely spaced punctures. Clypeal lobe transverse, thrice as long as broad; surface polished and shining, its ventral end bordered by a fine, narrow transverse furrow. The frontal prominence one and a half times as long as broad, surface finely aciculated, hardly shining. Ocelli in an equilateral triangle, the anterior ocellus situated on an imaginary line between eye tops; the ocello-ocular distance 2,5 times greater than the width of ocellar triangle. Thorax and abdomen distinctly alutaceous and sparsely but conspicuously punctured. Both notaulices and parapsidal furrows parallel, declivity of propodeum with strongly prominent median calosity. Disc of fore wing subhyaline, ornamented with a piriform pale spot beyond and distal to the top of marginal cell. Front and mid femora as long as the respective tibiae, hind tibia considerably longer (about 5,5: 4,0).

Allotype ♂ labelled: "Pretoria, November 1967, Ac. X. 20238, H. E. PRINS-LOO", and "Bred of *Hylotrupes bajulus*". Holotype and allotype in the author's collection.



Figs 2-3. *Ycaploca evansi* gen. et spec. nov., 2. ♂-allotype. 3. Male genitalia, ventral view.

**Description.** Length about 2.9 mm; fore wing 1.9 mm. Differs from the female in having the head as long as broad; front microscopically alutaceous, shining; notaulices very weakly divergent anteriorly; first discoidal cell with its sides not parallel as in female but distinctly convergent apically; subgenital plate not studied, genitalia as shown in fig. 3.

**Paratypes:** 1 ♀ labelled "Rose Bay, K. K. SPENCE", no data on label (Australian Museum collection, Sydney); 9 ♀♀ labelled "Stanthorpe, Queensland, December 1929, E. SUTTON" (6 ♀♀ National Museum of Victoria collection, Melbourne; 1 ♀ United States National Museum collection, Washington, D. C.; 1 ♀ Museum of Comparative Zoology collection, Cambridge, Mass.; ♀ in the author's collection); 1 ♂ and 2 ♀♀ labelled "Pretoria, November 1967, H. E. PRINSLOO (1 ♂ and 1 ♀ Hungarian Natural History Museum collection, Budapest; ♀ in the author's collection).

**Remarks.** The species is feebly variable in its morphological characters and I do not detect any differences between South African specimens and Australian ones. In all of the paratypes the median furrow of the front reaches beyond middle of front. The bisected radial vein distinguishes it from *Scolebythus madecassus* Evans in which the first sector of the radius is only one-fourth of the second. The lack of a polished triangular area on the fifth sternite in this species, differs notably from that of *Clystopsenella longiventris* Kieffer. The transverse furrow of the scutellum is unlike both earlier known species, a character which does not occur in their males and which remained undescribed up to the present.

**Biological notes.** Evans (1963) expressed the opinion that members of this family are adapted for parasitising wood-boring beetle larvae. The species described here confirms this hypothesis because I have two males and two females from larvae of *Hylotrupes bajulus* Linnaeus (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae). The generally more slender body of *Scolebythidae* is an obvious adaptation for traversing the narrow tunnels of longicorn beetle larva. From each beetle larva one pair of wasps issued, forming woven

pupae, and because of this I have named the genus *Ycaploca*, a combination of the Greek words *ycanos* + *ploche* (= enough + woven). Also, I have named the species in the honour of the distinguished American entomologist Prof. Dr Howard Ensign Evans, discoverer of this family.

#### REFERENCES

- EVANS, H. E. 1963. A new family of wasps. *Psyche* **70**: 7–16.  
KIEFFER, J. J. 1914. Bethylinæ. *Das Tierreich* **41**: 228–595.